

Weekly Newscast Lesson Plan



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with
CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton and the Government of Alberta



Calgary

January 16, 2017

Objectives:

1. To develop listening skills
2. To increase vocabulary
3. To increase knowledge of current events
4. To provide an authentic learning resource

Contents:

1. Three news stories
2. Vocabulary building activities
3. Listening comprehension activities
4. Transcripts
5. Answer keys

News story #1 Jury chosen for Calgary murder trial (0:12)

Setting the Scene



Murder victims Kathy Liknes, *left*, Nathan O'Brien, *centre*, and Alvin, Liknes, *right* (Calgary Police Service) (CBC file photo)

Nearly three years ago, a mysterious and sad news story hit the city of Calgary. A five-year-old boy and his grandparents disappeared from their home in Calgary. The police later arrested Douglas Garland and accused him of murder. In Canada, the punishments for certain crimes are decided in a court of law, with a judge and jury. A jury is a group of ordinary people who listen to information about the crime and decide if the person (Garland) is guilty or not guilty. In cases like this, when the story was in the news for a long time, it can be difficult to find people to sit on the jury. People may read the story in the news, and already have an opinion about Garland.

Pre-listening Questions

In your country, how are punishments chosen for criminals?

Would you want to sit on a jury? Why or why not?

How do you think members of a jury are chosen? What kind of people shouldn't be on a jury?

Vocabulary

Synonym Matching

To help you better understand the story, choose the pair of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
_____	potential (adj.)	a) accused (by law), allege
_____	high-profile (adj.)	b) replacements, alternatives
_____	trial (n.)	c) relationships, contacts
_____	alternates (n.)	d) lost; disappeared
_____	missing (adj.)	e) possible, prospective
_____	charged (v.)	f) matters, trades
_____	previous (adj.)	g) well-known, publicized
_____	connections (n.)	h) earlier, past
_____	dealings (n.)	i) legal process, in court

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

first-degree murder – a killing that was planned

jurors – people chosen from the public to make a decision in a legal case

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2zl6bs

You can practice online for free and as many times as you want to. The Quizlet app is a free vocabulary study tool. You can download it to your phone or tablet and practice new vocabulary whenever you have time.

Listening Task

Chronological order

Look at the sentences below that describe events in the story. Listen to the story. Number the sentences in the correct order that they happened in time, not the order they appear in the story. You may have to listen to the story more than once.

- a. _____ Douglas Garland was charged with the murders of the three people.
- b. _____ Nathan O'Brien and Alvin and Kathy Liknes went missing.
- c. _____ 12 people and 2 alternates were chosen to hear the case against Garland.
- d. _____ Douglas Garland had business dealings with Alvin Liknes.
- e. _____ For two weeks, police searched for the three missing people.
- f. _____ More than 450 people went to the Calgary Courts as potential jurors.

Food for Thought

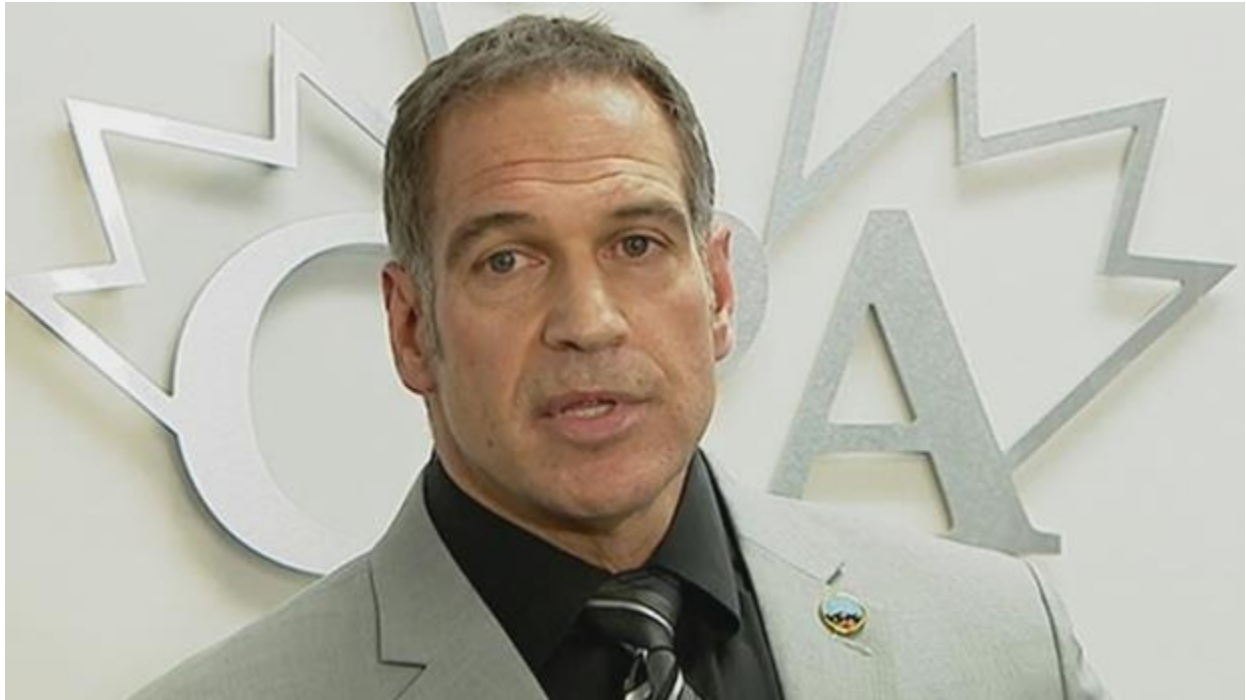
Do you think a jury is a useful part of law? Why or why not?

Can you think of another high-profile crime that has happened in Canada?

How does the media discuss crime in your country? Would they tell stories like the Douglas Garland case?

News story #2 Calgary Police Association president under investigation (1:07)

Setting the Scene



Lee Kaminski, president of the Calgary Police Association (Monty Kruger/CBC) (CBC file photo)

In November, the Calgary Police Association elected Lee Kaminski as their new president. However, Kaminski is being investigated, and may face criminal charges because of past actions. Seven years ago, Kaminski was a police officer involved in an arrest at a traffic stop. In the court case, the judge said that Kaminski didn't take proper notes at the arrest. Also, his story about what happened was different from what witnesses reported. Lying in court, or perjury, is a crime in Canada.

Pre-listening Questions

What are the characteristics of a good police officer?

Why do you think police officers sometimes have to speak in court cases?

How are police in Canada different from police in your country?

Vocabulary

Find the definition (Multiple Choice)

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Read the sentences below and choose the best definition for the words in **bold**.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. After a long **investigation**, the police figured out how the man died.
 - a) search for a person
 - b) search for the truth
2. People on a jury play an important **role** in the legal customs of Canada.
 - a) a part in an event
 - b) something happening in the future
3. In the **assault**, her shoulder was almost broken. It hurt for months.
 - a) insult or be rude to
 - b) hurt or attack
4. She was caught **falsifying** her driver's license. She changed her year of birth to seem older.
 - a) changing information
 - b) limiting information
5. The man saw the crime happen, so he **testified** in court to explain what he saw.
 - a) spoke to the police (in jail)
 - b) spoke to a judge (in court)
6. In this murder, there are two **suspects**: the boyfriend and the neighbour.
 - a) people who might have committed a crime
 - b) people who are trying to solve a crime
7. She wasn't wearing her glasses when she saw the crime. I don't think her story is **credible**.
 - a) can be believed
 - b) can be borrowed from
8. The police in this city are **reliable**. When problems happen, they come quickly and help out.
 - a) can fix things
 - b) can be trusted

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

perjury – the crime of lying in court

acquitted – to be declared not guilty of a crime

step aside – leave a job

We encourage you to study these new words using this link: https://quizlet.com/_2zl6q4

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Listening Activity

Answering True/False questions

Read the following statements. While you listen to the story, decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks.

Answers are in the appendix.

1. ____ The new president of the Alberta Police Association is under investigation.
2. ____ He played a role in a case starting in 2008.
3. ____ He is being investigated for perjury, assault causing bodily harm and firing a gun.
4. ____ Kaminski testified in a court case in 2011.
5. ____ He was the only arresting officer involved in a traffic stop.
6. ____ The suspect in the case was sent to jail.
7. ____ The judge thought Kaminski was a reliable witness.
8. ____ Kaminski does not plan to step aside during the investigation.
9. ____ The Crown Prosecutor will decide if charges will be laid against Kaminski.

Food for thought

In your opinion, what kind of person should be president of the Calgary Police Association?

What do you think of Kaminski? Do you think he should be president?

What do you think the Crown Prosecutor should do?

News story #3 Hollywood actress Jane Fonda tours Alberta oilsands (2:06)

Setting the Scene



Actress and activist Jane Fonda, *left* (Jordan Strauss/Associated Press) and Fort McMurray, Alberta, *right* (Jason Franson/Canadian Press) (CBC file photos)

The Alberta oilsands are a key part of Canada's economy. They are also controversial, drawing lots of different opinions from different groups. Many environmental groups oppose the oilsands, saying they damage the land and the environment. Some First Nations groups have raised similar issues about the oilsands. Some celebrities, like musicians and movie stars, use their fame to talk about issues that are important to them. Jane Fonda has used her fame to discuss issues about politics and the environment. She visited Fort McMurray in a tour organized by the environmental activist group Greenpeace.

Pre-listening Questions

What do you know about the oilsands?

Some groups are against the oilsands. What groups or people support the oilsands?

Have you heard of Greenpeace? What kind of work do they do?

Vocabulary

Sentence Completion

Learning some of the new words you will hear in the listening will help you understand the news story. Use the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

opposition (n.)	criticism, resistance
activist (n.)	a someone who works toward changing something in society or government
approached (v.)	moved closer to someone or something
supporters (n.)	people who agree with or approve of something
critical (adj.)	describes one who expresses the problems or faults of something
status (n.)	position in a society or group
raised (v.)	discussed or talked about

- a) That documentary about wild animals in Alberta _____ some important questions about how we can protect animals when disasters like wildfires happen.
- b) There is strong _____ to the new traffic law. People don't think it will make traffic any safer.
- c) Some Canadians are _____ of the carbon tax because they think it will help the environment. Others are _____ of the tax because they don't think it will work.
- d) Ms. Johnson is the manager of the company, so her _____ is much higher than mine. I was nervous when I _____ her to thank her for hiring me.
- e) He has been an _____ for the environment since he was a child. He doesn't eat meat, doesn't drive a car and works for an environmental charity.

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

oilsands – areas of Alberta where oil is taken out of the ground

Oscar-winning – winning a film award (for acting, directing, etc.)

First Nations / Indigenous – people who have lived in an area since before European settlement

to trash – to insult or speak rudely about

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Listening Activity

Multiple Choice

Read the following questions. Then listen to the audio and circle the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Jane Fonda is making her suspicion / opposition / opportunity to the oilsands known.
2. Fonda is an Oscar winning actress and professional / personal / political activist.
3. She took a tour of the oilsands in a helicopter / helped tour / hovercraft.
4. Fonda met with First Nations lawyers / lobbyists / leaders.
5. Not everyone in Fort McMurray was helpful / happy / hoping Fonda was in town.
6. She was approached by oilsands supporters in a restaurant / retail / rural parking lot.
7. Fonda says she didn't come to Alberta to test / trick / trash the province or the people in the oil industry.
8. She hopes to use her status as a celebrity to lead on / lift up / look over the issues being raised by Indigenous leaders.

Food for thought

Can you think of other famous people who support the environment?

Are there any famous people from your home country who are activists? What work do they do?

Do you think we should listen to famous people when they talk about these issues? Why or why not?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	JANUARY WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Shannon Scott, and this is Learning English with the CBC for January 16 th , with stories that made news over the past week.	0:00
Story 1	More than 450 people were at the Calgary Courts last week as potential jurors for a high-profile murder trial. 12 people and 2 alternates were chosen to hear the case against Douglas Garland. Garland is charged with three counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of five-year-old Nathan O'Brien and his grandparents, Alvin and Kathy Liknes. The three people went missing in June of 2014. Their bodies have never been found. Garland was charged with their murders after a two-week search. He had previous connections to the family, and past business dealings with Alvin Liknes.	0:12
Story 2	The new president of the Calgary Police Association is under investigation for his role in a case starting back in 2008. Les Kaminski is being investigated for perjury, assault causing bodily harm and falsifying notes. In a 2011 court case, Kaminski testified as one of the arresting officers involved in a traffic stop three years earlier. The suspect was acquitted in part because the judge didn't believe Kaminski was a credible or reliable witness. Kaminski says he has no plans to step aside during the investigation. The Crown Prosecutor must now decide if charges will be laid.	1:07
Story 3	Jane Fonda is making her opposition to the oil sands known. The Oscar-winning actress and political activist was in Fort McMurray last week. While there, she took a tour of the oil sands in a helicopter and met with First Nations leaders. Not everyone in Fort McMurray was happy Fonda was in town. She was approached by some oil sands supporters in a restaurant parking lot who were critical of her trip. Fonda says she didn't come to Alberta to trash the province or the people who work in oil industry. She says she hopes to use her status as a celebrity to "lift up" the issues being raised by Indigenous leaders.	2:06

Answer keys

News story 1 Jury chosen for Calgary murder trial (0:12)

Vocabulary

<u>Answer</u>	<u>Word from the story</u>	<u>Synonyms</u>
<u>e</u>	potential (adj.)	a) accused (by law), allege
<u>g</u>	high-profile (adj.)	b) replacements, alternatives
<u>i</u>	trial (n.)	c) relationships, contacts
<u>b</u>	alternates (n.)	d) lost; disappeared
<u>d</u>	missing (adj.)	e) possible, prospective
<u>a</u>	charged (v.)	f) matters, trades
<u>h</u>	previous (adj.)	g) well-known, publicized
<u>c</u>	connections (n.)	h) earlier, past
<u>f</u>	dealings (n.)	i) legal process, in court

Listening

- a. 4 Douglas Garland was charged with the murders of the three people.
- b. 2 Nathan O'Brien and Alvin and Kathy Liknes went missing.
- c. 6 12 people and 2 alternates were chosen to hear the case against Garland.
- d. 1 Douglas Garland had business dealings with Alvin Liknes.
- e. 3 For two weeks, police searched for the three missing people.
- f. 5 More than 450 people went to the Calgary Courts as potential jurors.

News story 2

Calgary Police Association president under investigation (1:07)

Vocabulary

1. After a long **investigation**, the police figured out how the man died.
a) search for a person
b) search for the truth
2. People on a jury play an important **role** in the legal customs of Canada.
a) a part in an event
b) something happening in the future
3. In the **assault**, her shoulder was almost broken. It hurt for months.
a) insult or be rude to
b) hurt or attack
4. She was caught **falsifying** her driver's license. She changed her year of birth to seem older.
a) changing information
b) limiting information
5. The man saw the crime happen, so he **testified** in court to explain what he saw.
a) spoke to the police (in jail)
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6. In this murder, there are two **suspects**: the boyfriend and the neighbour.
a) people who might have committed a crime
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7. She wasn't wearing her glasses when she saw the crime. I don't think her story is **credible**.
a) can be believed
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8. The police in this city are **reliable**. When problems happen, they come quickly and help out.
a) can fix things
b) can be trusted

Listening

1. **F** The new president of the Alberta Police Association is under investigation.
2. **T** He played a role in a case starting in 2008.
3. **F** He is being investigated for perjury, assault causing bodily harm and firing a gun.
4. **T** Kaminski testified in a court case in 2011.
5. **F** He was the only arresting officer involved in a traffic stop.
6. **F** The suspect in the case was sent to jail.
7. **F** The judge thought Kaminski was a reliable witness.
8. **T** Kaminski does not plan to step aside during the investigation.
9. **T** The Crown Prosecutor will decide if charges will be laid against Kaminski.

News story 3

Hollywood actress Jane Fonda tours Alberta oil sands (2:06)

Vocabulary

1. That documentary about wild animals in Alberta **raised** some important questions about how we can protect animals when disasters like wildfires happen.
2. There is strong **opposition** to the new traffic law. People don't think it will make traffic any safer.
3. Some Canadians are **supporters** of the carbon tax because they think it will help the environment. Others are **critical** of the tax because they don't think it will work.
4. Ms. Johnson is the manager of the company, so her **status** is much higher than mine. I was nervous when I **approached** her to thank her for hiring me.
5. He has been an **activist** for the environment since he was a child. He doesn't eat meat, doesn't drive a car, and works for an environmental charity.

Listening

1. Jane Fonda is making her **suspicion / opposition / opportunity** to the oil sands known.
2. Fonda is an Oscar winning actress and **professional / personal / political** activist.
3. She took a tour of the oil sands in a **helicopter / helped tour / hovercraft**.
4. Fonda met with First Nations **lawyers / lobbyists / leaders**.
5. Not everyone in Fort McMurray was **helpful / happy / hoping** Fonda was in town.
6. She was approached by oil sands supporters in a **restaurant / retail / rural** parking lot.
7. Fonda says she didn't come to Alberta to **test / trick / trash** the province or the people in the oil industry.
8. She hopes to use her status as a celebrity to **lead on / lift up / look over** the issues being raised by Indigenous leaders.